

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-37 (canceled).

38. (currently amended) ~~Connecting~~ A connecting device comprises connecting means (50, 50<sub>a</sub>, 50<sub>b</sub>) for connecting a first extruded hollow profile workpiece (10), having a profile channel (12), a longitudinal groove (20), and at least one undercut groove space (22) on ~~a~~ the longitudinal groove (20), to ~~another~~ a second workpiece fixed to the hollow profile (10), the connecting device comprising: a connecting means, a strip-like socket profile (34) runs radially with respect to the profile channel (12) and has having at least at one end a stepped face (35) for receiving the connecting means (50, 50<sub>a</sub>), which wherein the connecting means in the rest a first position lies inside the side contours of the socket profile and in the a second connecting position projects beyond said socket profile at least on one side and has an outer contour which and engages in a retaining manner in the an undercut space (24) of the other provided on a second hollow profile (10).

39. (previously presented) Device according to claim 38, wherein the socket profile (34) is fixed to an end face (14) of the hollow profile (10).

40. (currently amended) Device according to claim 38, wherein the socket profile (34) has a baseplate (36) on a head strip (38) which is of a shorter length (g<sub>1</sub>) in longitudinal section than a length (g) of the baseplate, and part of the latter projects beyond an end side ~~(e)~~ (39) of ~~the~~ a head strip to form an upper, stepped face (35).

41. (currently amended) Device according to claim 38, wherein the connecting means comprises a screw element (50, 50<sub>a</sub>) having a socket strip (52) which is ~~essentially~~ rectangular in plan view, and from a surface (51) of the socket strip there projects a screw sleeve ~~or socket sleeve~~ (54) for a screw (63) passing axially therethrough.

42. (currently amended) Device according to claim 41, wherein an outer contour of the screw sleeve ~~or socket sleeve~~ (54) has two corner edges (56) which are arranged diagonally with respect to an interior (54) thereof, from which corner edges a flat wall surface (55) projects on either side as part of a sleeve wall (59), wherein the flat wall surface merges into an arced area (58) of the sleeve wall (59) which is curved in cross section.

43. (previously presented) Device according to claim 42, wherein the socket strip (52) projects beyond the sleeve wall (59) in a longitudinal axis (E), wherein at least one corner region (53) of the socket strip (52) is shaped as a segment of a circle in plan view.

44. previously presented) Device according to claim 43, wherein a rounded corner region (53) of the socket strip (52) is proximate to the corner edge (56) of the sleeve wall (59).

45. (currently amended) Device according to claim 44, wherein the corner edge (56) of the screw sleeve ~~or socket sleeve~~ (54) issues from a longitudinal edge (56) of the socket strip (52).

46. (currently amended) Device according to claim 40, wherein the socket profile (34, 34<sub>a</sub>) passes through by an opening (42) for a screw member (44), said opening being arranged approximately in the ~~centre~~ center of the head strip (38), wherein the screw member (44) ~~can be~~ is fixed in the profile channel (12) of the hollow profile (10) close to an end face (14) thereof.

47. (currently amended) Device according to claim 46, wherein the upper, ~~the~~ stepped face(s) (35) of the socket profile (34, 34<sub>a</sub>) ~~run(s)~~ runs at a distance from the end face (14) of the hollow profile (10), which distance corresponds to a height ( $h_1$ ) of the end side (39) of the head strip (38) and ~~to~~ to the sum of the thickness (c) of shaped ribs (18) which cover the undercut space (24) and delimit the longitudinal groove (20) and the thickness ( $c_1$ ) of the socket strip (52).

48. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 47, wherein a longitudinal axis (F) of the socket strip (52) of the connecting means (50, 50<sub>a</sub>) runs parallel to a longitudinal axis (A) of the hollow profile (10) in an inserted position and the socket strip is arranged such that it can be displaced in the longitudinal groove (20).

49. (withdrawn - currently amended) Device according to claim 48, wherein, ~~in order to connect the two hollow profiles (10),~~ the connecting means (50, 50<sub>a</sub>) has shaped ribs (18) which in ~~a~~ the second connecting position cover the undercut space (24) of one hollow profile (10) and are gripped from below in each case by the socket strips (52) of screw members, ~~as a result of which wherein~~ the shaped ribs of one hollow profile are held firmly against the end face (14) of the other hollow profile, and in the second connecting position the longitudinal axis (F) of the socket strip (52) is transverse to the longitudinal axis (A) of the ~~associated~~ second hollow profile (10).

50. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 49, wherein a sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) which can be inserted in the longitudinal groove (20), said sleeve having lateral outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) which are inserted in radial grooves (82) of the hollow profile (10), wherein the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) includes a clamping screw (84, 84<sub>a</sub>).

51. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 50, wherein a

longitudinal portion (73) of an interior (72) of the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) is designed as a polygonal cross section and bears against a cylindrical interior portion.

52. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 51, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>), which is approximately triangular in cross section, merges with a rib faces (78) into shaped channels (75) of the sleeve peripheral surface (74).

53. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 51, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) has at one end a side edge (79<sub>a</sub>) which forms an angle (t) of approximately 45° with a radial line (Q) placed approximately through the centre of the outer rib, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>) is upset at its inclined side edge (79<sub>a</sub>).

54. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 50, wherein at least three groups (80) of outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) are parallel to a centre axis (M) of the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) and are assigned to radial grooves (82) in the fixing position, wherein the radial grooves (82) are formed in the undercut space (24) of the longitudinal groove (20) of the hollow profile (10) and also in facing surfaces of shaped ribs (18) which delimit the longitudinal groove on the profile side face (16).

55. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 53, wherein the side edges (79<sub>a</sub>) of a group (80) of outer ribs (82) are aligned with one another parallel to a centre axis (M).

56. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 55, wherein the inclined side edge (79<sub>a</sub>) of the outer rib (82) forms a contact resistance between the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) and the associated radial grooves (82).

57. (withdrawn) Device comprises connecting means (50, 50a) for connecting a first extruded hollow profile (10), having a profile channel (12) and at least one undercut groove space (22) on a

longitudinal groove (20), to another workpiece wherein a sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) which is inserted in the longitudinal groove (20) is provided with lateral outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) which project from a peripheral surface (74), said ribs being inserted in radial grooves (82) of the hollow profile (10).

58. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 57, wherein the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) is provided with a clamping screw (84, 84<sub>a</sub>) which is inserted into an interior (72) of the sleeve, the screw has a round shaft (88) integrally formed on a screw head (86) of the clamping screw, wherein the round shaft (88) merges into a coaxial screw shaft (90) at a distance (z<sub>3</sub>) from the screw head (86).

59. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 58, wherein an external diameter (q<sub>1</sub>) of a thread (89) of the screw shaft (90) is greater than the internal diameter (k<sub>1</sub>) of the sleeve interior (72).

60. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 59, wherein the interior (72) of the sleeve (70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) has a cylindrical portion which is adjoined by a polygonal cross section (73<sub>a</sub>) having axis-parallel edges of which are formed as notched channels (66).

61. (withdrawn) Device comprising connecting means (50, 50a) for connecting an extruded hollow profile (10), having a profile channel (12) and at least one undercut groove space (22) on a longitudinal groove (20), to another workpiece wherein a sleeve (71) is inserted in the longitudinal groove (20) and is provided with lateral outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) which project from a peripheral surface (74) and includes a clamping screw (85) having a thread (90) which is inserted into an interior (72) of the sleeve.

62. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 61, wherein the outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) are inserted in radial grooves (82) of the hollow profile or workpiece (10).

63. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 61, wherein, integrally formed on a screw head (86) of a clamping screw (85) is a shaft (88) which is provided with the thread (90) at a distance ( $z_3$ ) from the screw head, wherein a round portion (89) of the shaft (88) extends between the screw head (86) and the thread (90), the length ( $z_3$ ) corresponds approximately to two-thirds of a length ( $z_1$ ) of the shaft.

64. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 63, wherein an external diameter ( $q_1$ ) of the thread (90) is greater than a diameter ( $k_4$ ) of an opening (83) in a rear wall (94) of the sleeve (71) which delimits the sleeve interior (72).

65. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 64, wherein the thread (90) on the shaft (88) forms an annular edge (92) which faces towards the screw head (86).

66. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 65, wherein the annular edge (92) of the clamping screw (85) forms a stop member, the partner of which is the annular rear wall (94) of the sleeve (71), wherein the clamping screw (85) is arranged such that it can be displaced axially in the sleeve (71) between the screw head (86) and the annular edge (92).

67. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 65, wherein the screw head (86) of the clamping screw (85) bears against an associated outer sleeve edge ( $68_t$ ) of the sleeve (71), the thread (90) projects from the sleeve (71) at the other end, wherein a longitudinal portion of the interior (72) of the sleeve (71) is designed as a polygonal cross section ( $73_n$ ) and bears against a cylindrical portion of the sleeve interior (72), wherein axis-parallel edges of the polygonal cross section ( $73_n$ ) are designed as notched channels (66) wherein an axial length of the cylindrical portion of the sleeve interior (72) corresponds approximately to the length ( $z_2$ ) of the thread (90) of the clamping screw (85).

68. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 67, wherein an axial collar (96) is integrally formed on the sleeve (71) at its end remote from the rear wall (94) and the shaft (88) is arranged such that it can be displaced within said collar, wherein the collar (96) together with the peripheral surface (74) of the sleeve (71) delimits an annular zone (68) of the sleeve (71) and/or the height ( $h_3$ ) of the collar (96) extends the contact length ( $y_3$ ) between sleeve (71) and clamping screw (85).

69. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 68, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>), which is approximately triangular in cross section at least in its free end region, merges with its lateral rib faces (78) into shaped channels (75) of the sleeve peripheral surface (74), wherein optionally the two rib faces (78) merge into a rib crest (77<sub>n</sub>) which is designed as a sharp edge.

70. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 69, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) has at one end a side edge (79<sub>a</sub>) which forms an angle ( $t$ ) of approximately 45° with a radial line (Q) placed approximately through the centre of the outer rib, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) is upset at its inclined side edge (79<sub>a</sub>).

71. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 70, wherein a plate-like, flat, square body (81) on a side edge (79) of the outer rib (76<sub>n</sub>), wherein the plate-like body (81) engages axially over the outer ribs (76<sub>n</sub>) on their rib face (78) remote from the collar (96) and/or the inclined side edge (79<sub>a</sub>) of the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) forms a contact resistance between the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>n</sub>) and the associated radial grooves (82).

72. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 71, wherein at least three groups (80) of outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) which are parallel to a centre axis (M) of the sleeve (71) and are assigned to radial grooves (82) in the fixing position, wherein the side edges (79, 79<sub>a</sub>) of a group (80) of outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) are aligned with one another parallel to the centre axis (M).

73. (withdrawn) Device according to claim 72, wherein the radial grooves (82) are formed in the groove bottom (24) of the longitudinal groove (20) of the hollow profile (10) and also in facing surfaces of shaped ribs (18) which delimit the longitudinal groove on the profile side face (16).